

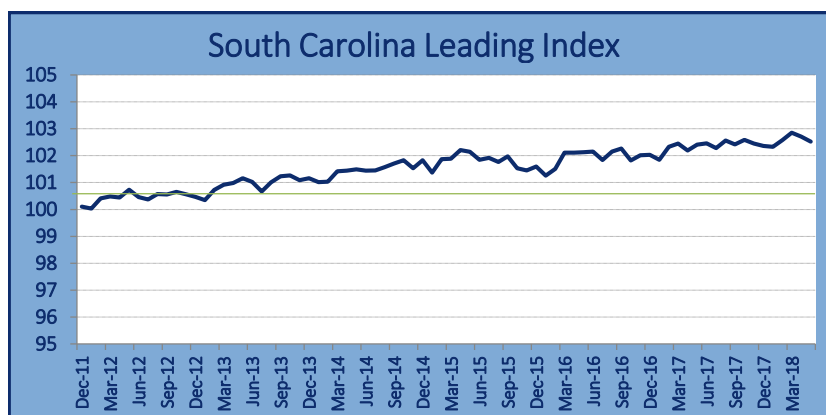


South Carolina
Department of Commerce
Just right for business.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The South Carolina Leading Index (SCLI) fell 0.18 points last month, ending with a value of 102.523, following revisions.

Key metrics dipped slightly in May. The number of issued housing permits dropped 4.6 percent, and permit valuation dropped 11.9 percent. Average weekly manufacturing hours were also down (-1.1 percent), and initial claims for unemployment insurance rose 4.3 percent month-over-month. The Dow Jones Composite Average fell 0.9 percent.



Source: S.C. Department of Commerce

The Conference Board's national Leading Economic Index rose 0.2 percent in May to 109.5, continuing a long growth trend yet showing signs of moderation. Solid growth is expected for 2018, as index readings over 100 forecast expansion of the economy.

- Brandon Wilkerson

KEY S.C. INDICATORS

Income

+1.2%

State Personal Income

increased to \$208.0 billion in the 1st quarter of 2018.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

+4.5%

S.C. Stock Index

rose 7.82 points in May, closing at 182.02 for the month.

Bloomberg

Real Estate

+2.2%

Median Home Sales Price

rose \$4,474 from the prior month to \$205,709 for May.

South Carolina Association of Realtors

-4.6%

Residential Building Permits

fell by 147 permits from the prior month to 3,072 in May.

U.S. Census Bureau

Employment

+0.4%

Nonfarm Employment

increased by 13,400 net non-seasonally adjusted jobs from the prior month.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

-0.2%

Labor Force

decreased by 5,635 to 2,317,929, seasonally-adjusted, in May.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

-1.1%

Manufacturing Weekly Hours

fell 0.4 hours to 43.4 hours in May from the prior month, as revised.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

-4.7%

Available Online Job Postings

decreased by 2,900 positions in May to a seasonally-adjusted 58,300 job postings.

The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index

-0.2%

Unemployment Rate

improved to 4.0 percent, seasonally-adjusted, in May.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

About S.C. Commerce's Research Division

The Research Division is a highly-skilled, multidisciplinary team of professionals that collects, examines and disseminates data to support economic development in South Carolina. The division furnishes information to companies considering an investment in the state and produces rigorous analysis for stakeholders of all kinds.

Those who wish to receive S.C. Commerce's monthly Economic Outlook can e-mail bwilkerson@SCcommerce.com.

South Carolina Employment

Non-Seasonally Adjusted Wage and Salary Employment

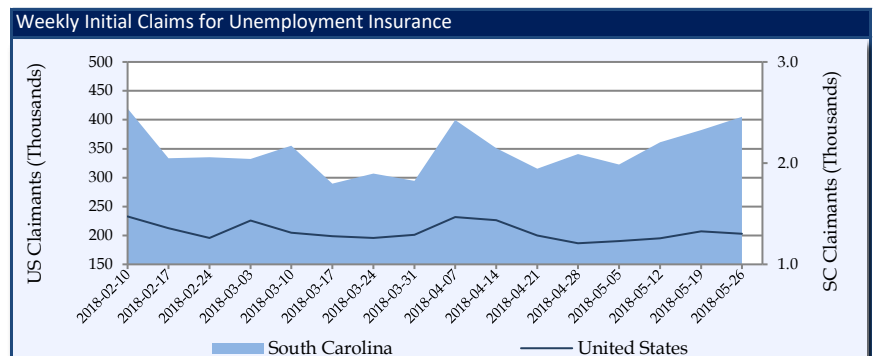
South Carolina's total non-seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment rose by 13,400 net jobs to 2,137,100 in May, a 0.6 percent increase from revised April numbers and 1.9 percent higher than one year ago. Most sectors reported net job gains for the month, with Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,800) leading the way. Other sectors with net gains of 1,000 jobs or more were Leisure and Hospitality (+3,500); Professional and Business Services (+3,300); Construction (+1,000); and Finance (+1,000). Sectors reporting a net job loss included Government (-500); Manufacturing (-200); and Information (-100). Compared to one year ago, the state economy added 40,500 nonfarm jobs.

Industry Sector	April 2018	Previous Month	Previous Year	% Change Month Ago	% Change Year Ago
Goods Producing	348,500	347,700	348,500	0.23%	0.00%
Natural Resources and Mining	4,400	4,400	4,400	0.00%	0.00%
Construction	101,300	100,300	99,100	1.00%	2.22%
Manufacturing	242,800	243,000	245,000	-0.08%	-0.90%
Service Providing	1,788,600	1,776,000	1,748,100	0.71%	2.32%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	406,500	401,700	402,200	1.19%	1.07%
Information	27,700	27,800	26,200	-0.36%	5.73%
Finance	101,500	100,500	100,000	1.00%	1.50%
Professional and Business Services	282,100	278,800	273,600	1.18%	3.11%
Educational and Health Services	252,700	252,400	245,800	0.12%	2.81%
Leisure and Hospitality	268,200	264,700	256,700	1.32%	4.48%
Other Services	79,000	78,700	74,000	0.38%	6.76%
Total Private	1,766,200	1,752,300	1,727,000	0.79%	2.27%
Government	370,900	371,400	369,600	-0.13%	0.35%
Total Nonfarm	2,137,100	2,123,700	2,096,600	0.63%	1.93%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Weekly Unemployment Claims

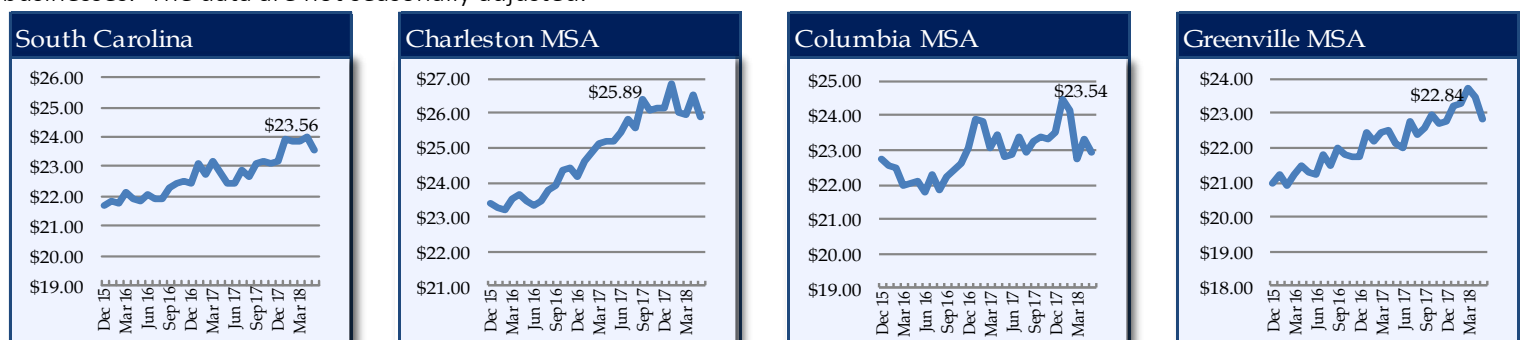
The average number of initial reported claims for unemployment insurance in the state increased in May. The average for the month was 2,244 weekly initial claims, up 4.3 percent month-over-month. Four of the six largest MSAs reported higher claims versus April, including Florence (+15.7 percent); Columbia (+15.2 percent); Charleston (+6.0 percent); and Greenville (+4.2 percent). Spartanburg (-5.8 percent) and Myrtle Beach (-1.8 percent) both reported fewer claims.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Average Hourly Earnings

These charts present the average hourly earnings of all employees in private industry, based on a monthly national survey of businesses. The data are not seasonally adjusted.



Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

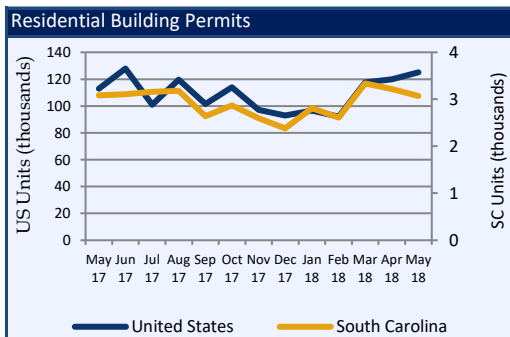
Real Estate & Business Activity

In May, the number of building permits issued in South Carolina for new residential construction fell 4.6 percent to 3,072. However, this figure was 8.6 percent higher year-to-date than the same point in 2017. Valuation for the permits fell 11.9 percent month-over-month but was 9.7 percent higher year-to-date versus 2017. Total closings rose 17.1 percent compared to April, and the median sales price rose 2.2 percent. Foreclosure activity decreased 5.2 percent compared to the same point last year. Total closings were up across the board for the six top MSAs, with Spartanburg (+26.6 percent) and Greenville (+22.1 percent) reporting the largest increases.

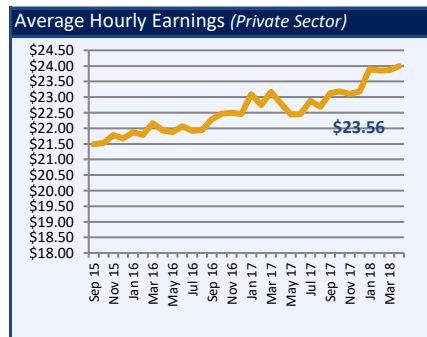
	Month	Current	Previous Year	% Change Year Ago	2018 YTD	2017 YTD	% Change YTD
Closings	May	8,145	7,716	5.6%	32,577	30,894	5.4%
Median Sales Price*	May	\$205.7	\$192.2	7.0%	\$199.9	\$185.0	8.1%
Foreclosures	May	1,743	1,838	-5.2%	8,716	9,854	-11.5%
Residential Building Permits -Total	May	3,072	3,086	-0.5%	15,047	13,853	8.6%
Residential Building Permits -Valuation*	May	\$653,952	\$697,122	-6.2%	\$3,486,549	\$3,179,030	9.7%

* Thousands of US dollars. Source: S.C. Association of Realtors, RealtyTrac, U.S. Census.

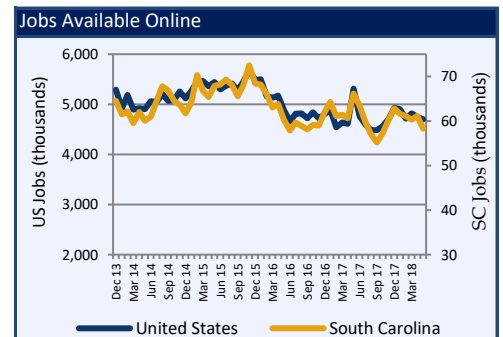
Business Activity



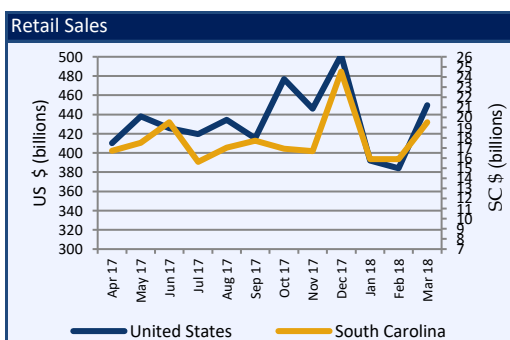
Source: U.S. Census



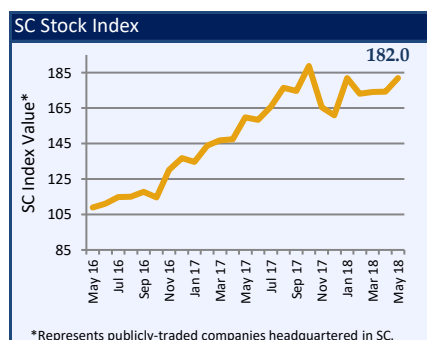
Source: U.S. Department of Labor



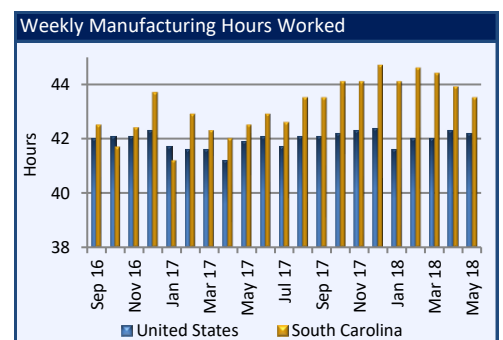
Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index



Source: South Carolina Department of Revenue

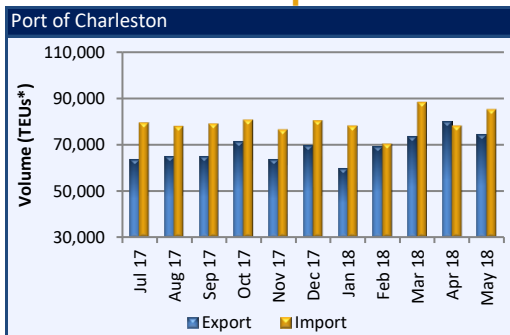


Source: Bloomberg

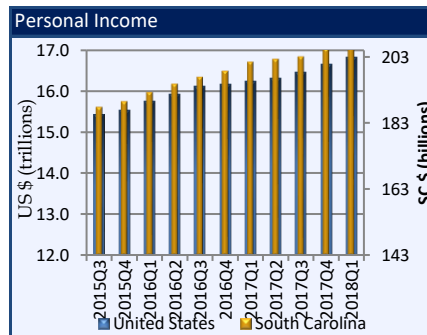


Source: U.S. Department of Labor

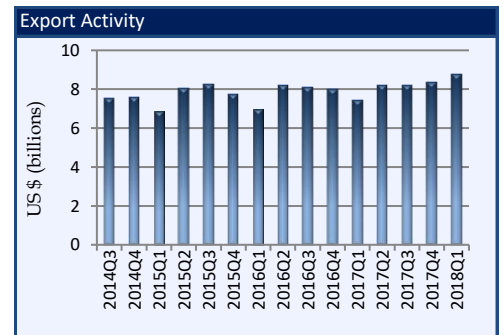
Income and Output



*Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units. Source: SC Ports Authority



Source: U.S. Census



Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census

Regional Updates

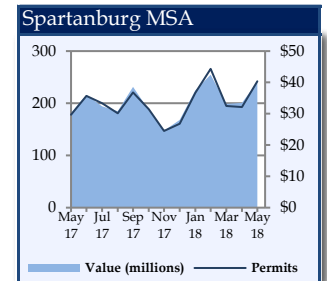
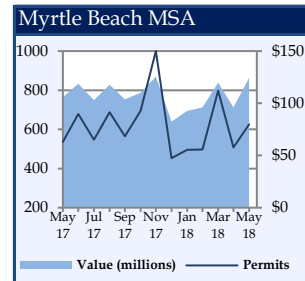
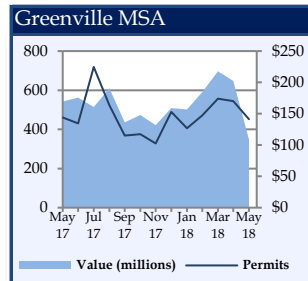
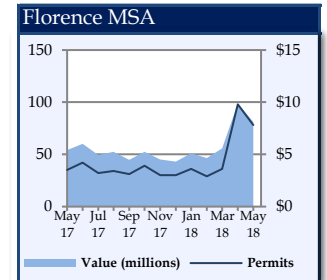
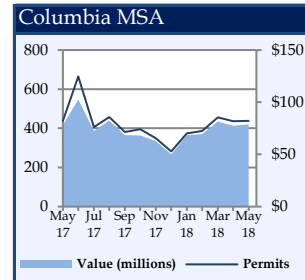
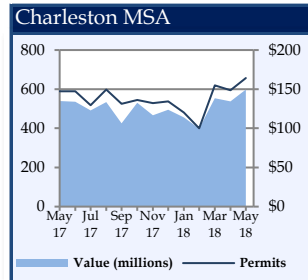
The South Carolina Regional Update provides a snapshot of the most recent economic figures for the six largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the state.

Home Sales

MSA	Indicator	May 17	May 18
Charleston	Sales Volume	1,813	1,812
	Median Price (000's)	\$260	\$274
Columbia	Sales Volume	1,270	1,343
	Median Price (000's)	\$165	\$168
Florence	Sales Volume	186	175
	Median Price (000's)	\$132	\$139
Greenville	Sales Volume	1,243	1,398
	Median Price (000's)	\$188	\$208
Myrtle Beach	Sales Volume	1,424	1,436
	Median Price (000's)	\$175	\$180
Spartanburg	Sales Volume	478	499
	Median Price (000's)	\$154	\$170
South Carolina	Sales Volume	7,716	8,145
	Median Price (000's)	\$192.2	\$205.7

Source: S.C. Association of Realtors.

Building Permits



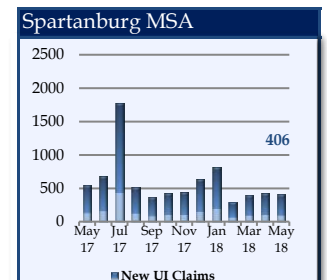
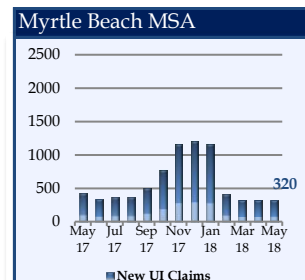
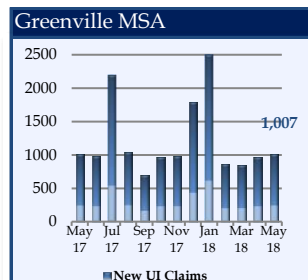
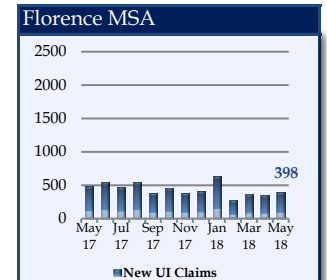
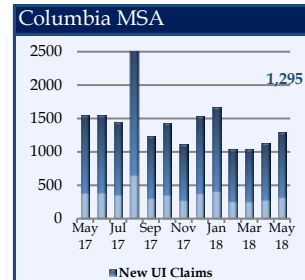
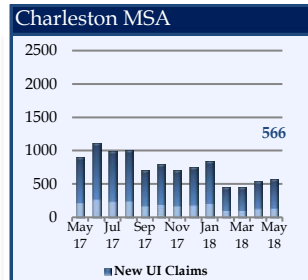
Source: U.S. Census

Employment

MSA	Indicator	Apr 18	May 18
Charleston	Employment (000's)	365.0	365.3
	Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.4
Columbia	Employment (000's)	384.5	385.4
	Unemployment Rate	2.7	2.8
Florence	Employment (000's)	91.1	91.5
	Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.2
Greenville	Employment (000's)	411.7	410.9
	Unemployment Rate	2.5	2.6
Myrtle Beach	Employment (000's)	188.9	191.8
	Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.6
Spartanburg	Employment (000's)	153.5	152.8
	Unemployment Rate	2.6	2.6
South Carolina	Employment (000's)	2,225.7	2,225.4
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (unadjusted figures)

Unemployment Insurance Claims



Source: SCDOC analysis of SCDEW data

South Carolina Bankruptcy Statistics, May 2018

2825	+7%	+4%	1.49	40
Cumulative Filings	Change from Prior Month	Change from Prior Year	Filings Per Capita	Number of States with More Per Capita Bankruptcies

Source: American Bankruptcy Institute June 2018